

University of Illinois
Fall Semester, 2006

Professor Mark S. Micale
421 Gregory Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00-3:00

Campus Honors Program 295/History 295

Madness and Society in the Modern World

Mondays, 325 Gregory Hall: 2:00-3:45

Fridays, 307 Gregory Hall: 1:00-3:20

Subject of the Course: What is insanity? How do we define the normal and the pathological? Who in society is best suited to determine psychological health and sickness? Can there be sciences of the emotions and sexuality? How do class, race, religion, and gender influence our views of human mental functioning? Can the human mind know itself? At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the sciences of the mind—psychiatry, psychoanalysis, clinical psychology, psychopharmacology, the cognitive neurosciences—claim tremendous scientific authority and exert enormous cultural influence. Yet these are only several of the basic, urgent questions that remain controversial or unanswered today.

This seminar seeks to explore these and many related subjects. Our approach will be historical. Specifically, we will study the social, cultural, intellectual, and institutional history of madness and psychiatry in Britain, continental Europe, and North America from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Topics will include: the origins of psychiatric humanitarianism, medical professionalization, the history of psychiatric diagnostics, the emergence of the modern asylum, patient autobiography, women in the mental health system, the history of the insanity defense in the courts, Victorian nervousness and hysteria, psychiatry and heredity, the beginnings of medical sexology, Freud and the coming of psychoanalysis, and shell shock in the First World War.

Structure of the Course: Rather distinctively, this course will meet twice weekly, at different times and for different activities. On Monday afternoons from 2:00-3:45, we will meet in 325 Gregory Hall to discuss the assigned weekly reading. Then on Friday afternoons at 1:00 we will gather in 307 Gregory Hall to view a film dealing with the themes of Monday's class. Afterwards, we will briefly discuss the film. On occasional weeks, there will be no Friday film.

Course Readings: The following mandatory books are available in the university bookstore:

Barker, Pat, Regeneration: A Novel (1991).

Krafft-Ebing, Richard von, Psychopathia Sexualis (1886).

Lombroso, Cesare and Guglielmo Ferrero, The Criminal Woman, The Prostitute, and the Normal Woman (1894).

Rosenberg, Charles E., The Trial of the Assassin Guiteau: Psychiatry and Law in the American Gilded Age (1968).

Shannonhouse, Rebecca, ed., Out of Her Mind: Women Writing on Madness (2000).

In addition, photocopies of several weeks' reading are available as numbered course packets at Notes & Quotes, which is located at 502 East John Street in Champaign (344-4433).

Course Requirements: 1) attendance at and informed participation in both Monday and Friday classes; 2) a five-to-six-page essay on an assigned question due Friday, October 6; and 3) an in-class presentation of about twenty minutes on a relevant book, article, or film drawn from the weekly supplemental reading listed below.

In addition, students have a choice between two options: you can either write an analytical book report of six-to-eight pages due on Friday, November 17 and take a comprehensive final examination scheduled for Thursday, December 14 or you can write an 18-20-page research paper on a topic of special interest to you, which is due the same day as the final exam.

Schedule of Classes

August 23

Preliminaries

Week One

August 28

Introduction: What is the History of Madness and Psychiatry? Why Study It?

David L. Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places," Science, vol. 179 (1973), 250-58.

Michel Foucault, "Madness and Culture," in Mental Illness and Psychology (1954; 1962), Part II, 60-88. (packet #1)

September 1

Film: Girl, Interrupted (1999), directed by James Mangold, starring Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Whoopi Goldberg, and Vanessa Redgrave.

September 4: Labor Day—No class

September 8:

Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975), directed by Milos Forman, starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher.

Week Two**September 11****The Enlightenment Origins of Modern Psychiatry**

Philippe Pinel, A Treatise of Insanity (1801), Section Two. (packet #2)

Report: Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter, George III and the Mad-Business (1969), Introduction, chaps. 1-5, 11, 17-19; William F. Bynum, "Rationales for Therapy in British Psychiatry, 1780-1835," Medical History, 18 (1974), 317-334.

September 15

Film: The Madness of King George (1994), directed by Nicholas Hytner, starring Nigel Hamilton and Rupert Everett.

Week Three**September 18****Interpreting the "Moral Treatment"**

J. Crichton-Browne, "The History and Progress of Psychological Medicine," Journal of Mental Science, 7 (1861), 19-31.

Michel Foucault, Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason (1961), chaps. 8 and 9.

Andrew Scull, Social Order/Mental Disorder: Anglo-American Psychiatry in Historical Perspective (1989), chap. 4. (packet #3)

Report: Andrew Scull, "The Most Solitary of Afflictions": Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900 (1993), chaps. 1-3.

September 22

Film: Quills (2000), directed by Philip Kaufman, starring Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslet, and Joaquin Phoenix.

September 29:

Film: Spellbound (1945), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck

Week Four**October 2****The “Birth of the Asylum”**

Anne Digby, Madness, Morality, and Medicine: A Study of the York Retreat, 1796-1914 (1985), chaps. 1-6, 8. (packet #4)

Report: Andrew Scull, “The Most Solitary of Afflictions:” Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900 (1993), Introduction, chaps. 2, 3; Joseph Melling and Bill Forsythe, Insanity, Institutions, and Society, 1800-1914: A Social History of Madness in Comparative Perspective (1999), chap. 1; Colin Gale and Robert Howard, Presumed Curable: An Illustrated Casebook of Victorian Psychiatric Patients in Bethlem Hospital (2003).

October 6: No Film. First Essay Due**Week Five****October 9****The Voice of the Patient: The “Mad Woman” in the Nineteenth Century**

Rebecca Shannonhouse, ed., Out of Her Mind: Women Writing on Madness (2000), 3-69.

Report: Joan Brumberg, Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa (1989); Nancy Tomes, “‘Devils in the Heart:’ A Nineteenth-Century Perspective on Women and Depression,” Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, series V, 13 (1991), 363-86; Nancy Tomes, “Feminist Histories of Psychiatry,” in Mark S. Micale and Roy Porter, eds., Discovering the History of Psychiatry (1994), chap. 19; Mark S. Micale, Approaching Hysteria: Disease and Its Interpretations (1995), 66-88.

October 13

Film: The Snake Pit (1948), directed by Anatole Litvak, starring Olivia de Havilland and Leo Genn.

Week Six**October 16****Neurasthenia, or the Medicalization of Everyday Emotional Life**

George Miller Beard, A Practical Treatise on Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia) (1880),

chaps. 1, 2, 5. (packet #5)

Report: Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra and Roy Porter, eds., Cultures of Neurasthenia: From Beard to the First World War (2001), Introduction, chaps. 1, 2, 4; Anson Rabinbach, "The Body Without Fatigue: A Nineteenth-Century Utopia," in Seymour Drescher et al., eds., Political Symbolism in Modern Europe (1982), 46-62; Susan E. Abbey and Paul E. Garfinkel, "Neurasthenia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: The Role of Culture in the Making of a Diagnosis," American Journal of Psychiatry, 148 (December 1991), 1638-46.

October 20

Film: The Road to Wellville (1994), directed by Alan Parker, starring Anthony Hopkins, Matthew Broderick, John Cusack, and Dana Carvey.

Week Seven

October 23

Legal Psychiatry and the Early Insanity Plea

Charles E. Rosenberg, The Trail of the Assassin Guiteau: Psychiatry and Law in the Gilded Age (1968).

Report: Foucault, Michel, "About the Concept of the 'Dangerous Individual' in 19th-Century Legal Psychiatry," International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 1 (1978), 1-18; James C. Mohr, Doctors and the Law: Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century America (1993), Introduction, chaps. 10, 12; Joel Peter Eigen, Witnessing Insanity: Madness and Mad-Doctors in the English Court (1995).

October 27

Films: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919), directed by Robert Wiene, starring Werner Krauss; Psycho (1960), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, and Simon Oakland; Silence of the Lambs (1991), directed by Jonathan Demme, starring Jodi Foster and Anthony Hopkins; Nuts (1987), directed by Martin Ritt, starring Barbra Streisand and Richard Dreyfuss.

Week Eight

October 30

Psychiatry and Sexuality: The Emergence of Sexology

Richard von Krafft-Ebing, Psychopathia Sexualis (1886), 3-24, 79-381 (selected case histories).

Report: Harry Oosterhuis, Stepchildren of Nature: Krafft-Ebing, Psychiatry, and the Making of Sexual Identity (2000); Jennifer Terry, An American Obsession: Science, Medicine, and Homosexuality in Modern Society (1999).

November 3

Tape or Films: “One Hundred Words,” This American Life (2001); The Einstein of Sex (1999), directed by Rosa von Praunheim, starring Friedel von Wangenheim; Kinsey (2004), directed by Bill Condon, starring Liam Neeson and Chris O’Donnell.

Week Nine

November 6

Psychiatry, Heredity, and Degeneration

Cesare Lombroso and Guglielmo Ferrero, The Criminal Woman, The Prostitute, and the Normal Woman (1893), Parts III and IV.

Report: Stephen Jay Gould, “Carrie Buck’s Daughter,” in The Flamingo’s Smile: Reflections in Natural History (1985), chap. 20; J. Edward Chamberlin and Sander L. Gilman, eds., Degeneration: The Dark Side of Progress (1985); Ian Dowbiggin, Keeping America Sane: The Story of Eugenics and Psychiatry in the United States and Canada, 1880-1940 (1997).

November 10

Documentary Film: Selling Murder: Killing Films of the Third Reich; The Bad Seed (1956), directed by Mervyn LeRoy, starring Patricia McCormack and Nancy Kelly.

Week Ten

November 13

Freud and the Emergence of Psychoanalysis

Josef Breuer and Sigmund Freud, "Case Histories: Fräulein Anna O.," in Studies in Hysteria (1895), 21-47. (packet #6)

Report: Rachel Bowlby, “Introduction,” to Freud, Studies on Hysteria; Peter Gay, Freud: A Life for Our Time (1988), chap. 2; Albrecht Hirsh Müller, The Life and Work of Josef Breuer (1989), 95-132.

November 17: No Film. Analytical Book Reports Due

Thanksgiving Break!

Week Eleven

November 27

Shell Shock and the First World War

Pat Barker, Regeneration: A Novel (1991).

Report: Eric J. Leed, No Man's Land: Combat and Identity in World War I (1979), chap. 5; Elaine Showalter, The Female Malady: Women, Madness, and English Culture, 1830-1980 (1985), chap. 7; Mark S. Micale and Paul Lerner, eds., Traumatic Pasts: Medicine, Psychiatry, and Trauma in the Modern Age, 1870-1930 (2001), Introduction; Paul Lerner, Hysterical Men: War, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Trauma in Germany, 1890-1930 (2003), Introduction, Part 2.

December 1

Film: Behind the Lines (1994), directed by Gilles Mackinnon, starring Jonathan Price and James Wilby; Let There Be Light (1946), directed by John Huston.

Week Twelve

December 4

Some Conclusions: One Hundred Years of Psychiatry

December 8:

Freud: The Secret Passion (1962), directed by John Huston, screenplay by Jean-Paul Sartre, starring Montgomery Clift.

Final Examination: Thursday, December 14, 1:30-4:30

Research Papers Due: Thursday, December 14, 5:00